



Mayor Greg Wheeler

Mayor's 2026 Initiatives

Housing and Commercial Development Improvements

Review Codes, Zoning, and Processes

- Update City's regulations to stay current with State requirements for permit process streamlining and creation of housing
- Continue to support revitalization projects and capital facility investments citywide, especially in commercial centers such as Harrison Heights (formerly Harrison hospital district), Wheaton Way corridor, Charleston, Manette and downtown
- Ensure the City continues to protect environmentally sensitive areas by adopting updates to Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline Master Program
- Support the construction of nearly 1,000 dwelling units and 775,000 square feet of commercial space in development

Proactive Code Enforcement

- Continue proactive code enforcement to further address issues in the City and work on strategies to assist tenants living in substandard housing units
- Continue court-appointed receiver program (RCW 7.60) and abatement program (RCW 35.80) to clean up nuisance property

Affordable Housing Assistance

- Continue funding to Bremerton Rental Assistance program in partnership with Bremerton Housing Authority to provide eviction assistance that helps working low-income residents and seniors
- Continue additional \$100,000 of assistance to City's weatherization and minor home repair program in partnership with Kitsap Community Resources and Boeing Retiree Volunteers (the Bluebills) to reduce utility costs, improve living and health conditions for vulnerable citizens while enhancing City's housing stock and stabilizing rent for low-income tenants
- Continue partnering with housing agencies in development or acquisition of affordable housing projects.
- Continue support for Bremerton Homeownership Down Payment Assistance (DPA). The program is designed to provide deferred payment, low-interest subordinate loans that make home buying affordable for eligible home buyers purchasing within Bremerton City limits.

- Continue the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) program, which allows selection from pre-approved ADU designs to help add housing in Bremerton, including a newly adopted ADU model design for the program, which brings the total number of available ADUs to 6 designs to choose from.

Homelessness

- Support shelter options that balance needs of City neighborhoods and homeless community
- Continue partnering with Peninsula Community Health Services on medical respite care facility on 6th Street and transitional housing

Kitsap Lake Water Quality Management

- Continue annual near-shore vegetation harvesting program
- Continue annual algae control and water quality monitoring programs to support recreation and safety for lake users
- Complete construction of stormwater treatment facilities on 4 outfalls that discharge into the lake

Internet and Broadband

- Continue looking for opportunities to expand broadband and increase internet access for residents and businesses

Park Upgrades

- Complete Kitsap Lake Park Renovations with irrigation and playground installation
- Complete 90% design for Pendergast Regional Park soccer field improvements and apply for grant funding
- Continue Phase II of Gold Mountain Cascade Course redesign
- Coordinate development of community play fields with local partners and the RAVE foundation
- Identify property for a fitness circuit and fitness space and apply for grant funding
- Complete roof repairs and building assessment of City-owned Glenn Jarstad Aquatic Center
- Complete assessment of fountains in downtown Bremerton for future improvements and maintenance
- Coordinate permanent installation of submarine sail from the retired USS Bremerton in the Bremerton gateway
- Secure funding to complete accessibility improvements to tennis and pickleball courts at Lions Park
- Apply for funding to design and build a dog park at Stephenson Canyon

Arts and Culture

- Continue to support operations at Quincy Square, including supporting a safe welcoming experience for soccer fans enjoying the official Bremerton Fan Zone at Quincy Square during the World Cup in Seattle in 2026
- Complete a comprehensive inventory of public artwork and evaluate current condition status
- Develop Bremerton Arts & Culture Master Plan that includes a public art maintenance program

- Expand the Public Art Program throughout Bremerton
- Continue support for Music Discovery Center and black history museum in Quincy Square
- Support the Bremerton Creative District's efforts to expand, promote and advocate for the arts and support efforts to assess the need for art facilities, including an arts center
- Host "Fall for the Arts" event and support City arts events, including summer concerts at Evergreen Rotary Park and Bremerton lantern parade
- Select art and provide awards for utility wraps and Open-Air Art Gallery panels
- Select Memorial Mini-grant recipients
- Develop additional arts and cultural events for the public to showcase local art
- Improve efficiency of arts event permitting processes
- Launch an annual *Creative District* magazine dedicated to showcasing Bremerton's arts, culture, and creative identity

Youth Programs

- Continue support for annual Mayor's Youth Leadership Award
- Continue support for annual Mayor's Challenge award at Washington State Science and Engineering Fair

Police Support and Crime Reduction

- Prioritize staffing needs
- Refine post academy training
- Facilitate supervisor transition to prepare for retirements and succession planning
- Evaluation of Behavioral Health Navigator program and partnership with Commonstreet to best provide services to community
- Continue focus on community concerns on drug enforcement
- Expand training and grow departmental resources to prepare for scheduled large-scale events in City
- Explore additional outreach opportunities and expand Citizens Academy to strengthen relationships with community members
- Develop and implement a strategic plan with community and City input
- Look for funding sources to add officers for more effective services
- Enhance patrols to new neighborhoods being added to the City

Fire

- Continue to address staffing needs for emergency response and administrative support
- Continue supporting staffing level and new emergency response unit funded by fire levy passed by residents in 2024
- Receive delivery of new Bremerton fire/rescue boat built by Safe Boats to support rescue and fire-fighting capabilities
- Continue to increase efficiencies and improve emergency response capabilities
- Continue implementation of mobile unit to respond to opioid and mental health incidents in partnership with Peninsula Community Health Services
- Work with Kitsap Department of Emergency Management to increase public awareness on natural disaster preparation
- Establish a permanent funding source for fire apparatus
- Increase efficiencies within the Fire and Life Safety Division

Streets, Sidewalks and Other Programs

- Pursue and secure state, federal and regional funding to advance priority transportation projects citywide
- Advance data driven asset management strategy to prioritize investments and extend life of City streets, sidewalks and transportation infrastructure
- Expand equitable pedestrian access citywide through annual sidewalk construction and ADA-compliant curb ramps
- Finalize approach and implement permanent sidewalk cafe program or suitable alternative
- Continue cost savings and energy efficiency from LED-conversion program for Puget Sound Energy streetlights
- Maintain safe and visible roadways citywide by investing in annual pavement marking and striping
- Preserve road conditions in the City and reduce long-term maintenance costs through ongoing pavement preservation program
- Improve sidewalk safety and accessibility by continuing a proactive trip hazard removal program
- Advance multimodal safety and mobility on key corridors, including completion of design for the 6th Street Active Transportation Project (road diet)
- Improve pedestrian safety and connectivity on Warren Avenue Bridge, advancing design of bicycle and pedestrian improvements
- Advance safety and mobility on Naval Avenue through continued design and right-of-way acquisition for road diet project
- Deliver Safe Routes to School investments at View Ridge Elementary, completing design and right of way for Phase 1 and Phase 2
- Enhance safety around all elementary schools by completing citywide installation of traffic-calming speed feedback signs
- Improve pedestrian crossing safety through installation of rectangular rapid flashing beacons at priority locations
- Modernize traffic operations along Wheaton Way through implementation of adaptive signal technology as part of SR303/Wheaton Way adaptive signals pilot project
- Restart Active Transportation Plan
- Identify and pursue grant funding for solar projects at City facilities as identified in Solar Plus Storage Feasibility Study

Water, Sewer, and Storm Utilities

- Continue working to bring two replacement water production wells online
- Complete design and begin construction for well and infrastructure improvements at Anderson Creek Wellfield
- Prepare analysis of alternatives and pursue funding for beach sewer decommissioning and upgrade of pump stations along Ostrich Bay shoreline
- Replace interior and exterior coating of Reservoir 18 to preserve integrity of reservoir tank and water quality
- Continue evaluation of technologies for compliance with Dept. of Ecology nutrient reduction requirements, which will become part of the City's NPDES wastewater permit

- Complete design and begin construction of new Pump Station 16 and Eastside Manganese Treatment Facility
- Complete construction of Decommission Beach Sewer project in Manette, which will eliminate 1,900-ft of gravity sewer in the beach
- Rehabilitate 5,500 feet of sanitary sewer and 160 feet of storm sewer by installing cure-in-place-pipe (CIPP) internal liner. Video inspect and clean 16,600 feet of pipe to prepare for future lining projects
- Update water utility emergency response plans and procedures in coordination with local partners, including Water Purveyors Association of Kitsap, Kitsap and Mason County Departments of Emergency Management
- Contribute updates to Kitsap County's Water Resource Inventory Area 15 (WRIA 15) water system plan to support the area's watershed and habitats
- Complete design of Tracyton Beach Road Sewer Improvement project, which will address reliability and safety issues with the sanitary sewer system
- Replace UV system and controls at Eastside Treatment Plant to improve reliability of UV disinfection and related components
- Complete construction of roadway improvements along 1st Street for Central Bremerton Forcemain Replacement Project (sewer replacement was completed in 2025)
- Complete update of Wastewater Comprehensive Plan
- Plan and design improvements to City's westside wastewater treatment plant
- Begin construction of stormwater outfall at west end of East 9th St. and re-route flows from undersized and failing stormwater outfall at west end of E. 11th St. to the new outfall
- Complete design on Parish Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal project for construction in 2027
- Continue design work for stormwater treatment systems for the Oyster Bay outfall
- Begin work on tree canopy mapping to support stormwater and receiving water quality benefits
- Continue partnership with Port of Bremerton and Mason County on completing feasibility planning for municipal wastewater service for the south Puget Sound Industrial Center (PSIC)
- Continue work to restore former leased sand and gravel pit on City of Bremerton utility land to forestland

Medical Care Access

- Continue partnering with St. Michael Medical Center/Virginia Mason and MultiCare to support healthcare capacity and access
- Continue to partner with Peninsula Community Health Services on medical respite care facility on 6th Street

Mental Health

- Evaluation of Behavioral Health Navigator program and partnership with Commonstreet to best provide services to community
- Continue mobile healthcare clinic in partnership with Peninsula Community Health Services to respond to opioid and mental health incidents

Human Resources

- Reorganize Human Resources as a distinct department led by HR director who reports directly to the Mayor
- Continue conducting a comprehensive review of Human Resources policies, procedures, and practices to ensure continued compliance with all state and federal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) laws. This review will also ensure City policies continue to be consistent with best practices in recruitment and retention that enhance the City's workforce and strengthen community trust in government
- Design and implement a streamlined, efficient online performance evaluation system that is consistent across the City
- Complete electronic transfer of employee personnel files to City's online HR system (Neogov)
- Partner and engage with City's Diversity and Community Engagement Manager in a coordinated effort to attract, retain diverse talent and create inclusive and safe work environments for City employees

Diversity and Community Engagement

- Foster deeper community engagement by being a visible, active participant in key local events throughout the year
- Pilot a Civics Academy that strengthens civic literacy, increases community engagement, and builds a pipeline of informed, active residents
- Increase civic engagement and public trust by implementing district townhall meetings that provide residents with transparent access to local and state government leadership and opportunities to share input on community priorities
- Continue updating and maintaining City's online Diversity and Community Engagement Hub, ensuring all content is current, visually consistent, and aligned with City's branding standards
- Engage at least two community partners to co-design government day sessions, activities or presentations that enrich participants' understanding of local government
- Collaborate with the City's Wellness Coordinator to support staff financial confidence and stability by offering accessible financial wellness, education, resources and support

Parking

- Work on continued expansion of smart commuter program, with review and installation of additional van pool stalls
- Update systemwide equipment and technology in parking and surface lots
- Continue work on improving parking enforcement processes, policies and tools and review regulations
- Update signage in Washington Avenue garage (Lot 91) with new Quincy Square themes
- Continue review of residential permit program, update policy and procedures changes, in preparation for possible signage updates in 2027

Transportation

- Continue working with Governor's Office to support Kitsap Transit fast ferry service and to sustain recovery of Washington State Ferry service on Bremerton route to maintain transportation link to Seattle and Puget Sound region
- Continue working with state legislators and regional partners such as Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) to rebuild and sustain Washington State Ferry system
- Continue to build upon restoration of Sunday bus service to expand service for residents

Business Opportunity, Economic Growth and Employment

- Continue to support efforts of new and existing businesses to build, grow and create jobs for residents
- Continue to support revitalization projects and capital facility investments citywide, especially in commercial centers such as Harrison Heights (formerly Harrison hospital district), Wheaton Way corridor, Charleston Business District, Manette and downtown
- Continue working with property and building owners to develop new office space for Navy contactors working with the Bremerton shipyard
- Assist in the coordination and development of the official Bremerton Fan Zone at Quincy Square during 2026 World Cup in Seattle
- Maintain Business and Occupation (B&O) tax exemption for businesses at \$1,040,000
- Continue additional funding to support businesses, including for small business development center, Mainstreet Association, and entrepreneurship and training program
- Finalize approach and implement permanent sidewalk café program or suitable alternative
- Continue working with Coalition partners on improvements for Gorst corridor
- Continue support for development of new daycare facility in downtown
- Continue partnership with Port of Bremerton and Mason County on completing feasibility planning for municipal wastewater service for the south Puget Sound Industrial Center (PSIC)
- Continue to support updates to West Sound Tech Skills Center and addition of new instructional training space
- In partnership with Bremerton School District, continue to support implementation of capital projects authorized by 2024 bond, including replacement of Armin Jahr and View Ridge elementary schools
- Continue working with Port of Bremerton to analyze economic benefits for expansion of Bremerton Airport
- Lead coordination with the U.S. Navy to plan for and mitigate citywide impacts from the multi-year improvements to the Bremerton (Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program -SIOP)
- Recognize the arts as an economic engine in the City and support Bremerton Creative District efforts to develop career pathways in the arts

Legal

- Continue to collaborate with jurisdictions and join litigation that advances City interests
- Implement case management system that enables establishment of pre-filing diversion program for appropriate criminal offenses

Legislative Efforts

- Continue to pursue and secure funding for affordable housing, transportation and street projects, parks improvements, among other City projects
- Support legislation that reduces City liability exposure

Efficiencies and Improvements

- Continue looking for efficiencies in all departments through new processes and technologies
- Continue investment in corporate technology in all aspects of City government
- Continue implementation of asset management program using data to inform decisions on City equipment and maintenance